

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /040 W

-----130905Z 050520 /20

R 130729Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6909

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: DOMEI COOPERATION WITH AFL-CIO IN ASIA

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH LABATT APR 12, DOMEI INTERNATIONAL BUREAU DIRECTOR AIHARA SAID THAT WHETHER DOMEI AND AFL-CIO SUPPORTED ASIAN AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUTE (AAFLI) CAN CONDUCT JOINT PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN ASIAN LABOR UNIONS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS ASIAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION (ARO) DEPENDS ON OUTCOME OF ARO'S ANNUAL MEETING IN SINGAPORE MAY 9-10.

2. ACCORDING TO AIHARA, THE QUESTION OF ACCEPTING ASSISTANCE FROM AAFLI IS NOW ON ARO'S AGENDA. AIHARA SAID DOMEI RECEIVED STRONG IMPRESSION FROM AAFLI DIRECTOR PALADINO DURING HIS JANUARY VISIT TO TOKYO THAT IF ARO DID NOT APPROVE ASSISTANCE FROM AAFLI AT SINGAPORE MEETING, PALADINO WOULD RECOMMEND TO AFL-CIO THAT IT DROP REFERENCE TO AFL-CIO-DOMEI JOINT COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN ASIA FROM COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED FOLLOWING ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON IN MID-MAY. AIHARA EMPHASIZED THAT DOMEI STRONGLY COMMITTED TO COOPERATING WITH AFL-CIO AND AAFLI WITHIN ARO CONTEXT AND THEREFORE WORKING TO OBTAIN ARO ENDORSEMENT AT SINGAPORE. RECENT INDIAN ELECTION RESULTS HAVE MADE DOMEI MORE

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OPTIMISTIC. DOMEI BELIEVES THAT ARO'S INDIAN AFFILIATES, REFLECTING MRS. GANDHI'S DESIRE TO LIMIT FURTHER AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN ASIA, WERE PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ARO'S RELUCTANCE DURING LAST YEAR AND HALF TO GIVE CLEAR GREEN GO-AHEAD SIGNAL TO AAFLI-DOMEI PROPOSAL. DOMEI HOPES THAT, WITH MRS. GANDHI'S DEFEAT, INDIAN LABOR UNIONS WILL NO LONGER SERVE AS FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMEN OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND WILL INSTEAD

CONSIDER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ON THEIR OWN MERITS.

3. AIHARA SAID THAT HE HAS WRITTEN ARO PRESIDENT DEVAN NAIR SUGGESTING THAT PALADINO BE INVITED TO SINGAPORE TO MEET WITH ARO OFFICERS AND DELEGATES MAY 10-11 JUST AFTER FORMAL SESSIONS OF CONFERENCE END. NAIR HAS NOT YET RESPONDED.

4. AIHARA ADDED THAT NAIR, FOLLOWING UP ON TOKYO SEMINAR HE ATTENDED IN MARCH (TOKYO'S 3672), HAS INVITED SOHYO, CHURITSU ROREN AND SHINSANBETSU TO SEND OBSERVERS TO ARO MEETING IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE GREATER INTEREST ON THEIR PART IN EXTENDING ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN UNIONS. DOMEI HAS NOT OBJECTED TO THESE INVITATIONS.

5. DEPT MAY WISH TO PASS SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE TO AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND TO PALADINO. SHOESMITH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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